



COLLAGE ART: IN THE CONTEXT OF CONTEMPORARY ASPIRATIONS

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ABSTRACT

Art is an act of human expression. This process has been going on since the time of primitive man. Man has been doing many new experiments to express his emotions. In the early 18th century, new discoveries began in the field of art. Also there were many experiments related to art. As a result, sects such as Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, Expressionism, Fauvism, Cubism etc. were born. A lot of changes can be seen in the art creation, media and techniques of the artists of these sects. One of the many innovative media and techniques that the artist has discovered is the '*Collage*' technique.

KEYWORDS: Kaudi Painting, High Cubism, Primitive Man, Admirable, Byzantine Empire, Popular Art, Installation, Palanquins, Georges Braque, Synthetic Cubism, Pop Artists, Contemporary Context, Interpret, Juxtaposing, Limelight, Artifacts, Provoking

INTRODUCTION

Collage art is a creative technique that involves assembling various materials. Such as photographs, paper, fabric, and found objects into a single art work. Artists layer these elements to create new compositions, often juxtaposing different textures, colors, and styles. The process can convey complex ideas or emotions, allowing for a mix of realism and abstraction. Collage can be done on canvas, paper, or even in digital formats, making it a versatile and accessible form of expression. It's often used to challenge traditional notions of art and storytelling, encouraging viewers to interpret the connections between disparate elements.

The word collage originates from the French language. Collage technique is said to have come into the limelight in the early 20th century by oriental artists, but it can be said that this technique has been practiced in India since ancient times. While the practice of pasting together useless objects to create a collage art is more recent, the mosaic technique in ancient Persian-style murals or other mediums is similar to today's collage technique. The specialty of this art is that the artist cuts the useless materials available to him such as news papers, color sheets, tree bark shells, grass, string, wheat stalks, grains, etc. in the shape he wants, arranges them or makes them into pieces and pastes them in the empty space of the sheet, card board or canvas to complete the picture. In this way the artist can create works according to the style he has adopted. The artist's patience and hard work in creating a unique work of art is admirable by creating the shapes he wants and the color combination according to these shapes, showing the difference between light and shade.

Collage technique works of art were created in the palaces of the Byzantine Empire, in the ancient buildings of the city of Venice, in the churches of England, and can still be seen today. In the folk style paintings done by the people of our

rural India, the technique of collage art can be identified in the materials they make. Kaudi, used for bedding and covering in rural areas, has an attractive design and is reminiscent of the collage technique. It is clear from this that '*Kaudi painting*' is an advanced form of collage art. In the early 20th century, Western artists experimented with the collage technique as a form of painting, but it is clear from the above description that this method was prevalent in the rural areas of our country long ago. Different colored, different shaped pieces of juniper are stitched with thread; The method of creating imagery in Kaudi is known as collage art.

Similarly, installation art has also been practiced as a religious subject among our people since long ago. Today this art is also popular as 'installation' art form with innovative experiments. It can be recalled here that collage art has been used in Kaudi, images on God's Jagali, pieces of bangles used to represent the floor of the house with teak, the method of sticking shells to the floor, clothes of Lambani women, decorative design cloths put on bulls, palanquins, umbrellas used in the festival.

From 1912 to 1915, Georges Braque experimented a lot in his work. He left only colors for the Synthetic Cubism period and created works by pasting useless materials, colored printed sheets, card board or canvas in the shape he wanted, creating shapes. This was called collage. As the shapes here are geometrical and pasted together, they are identified as paintings of the '*Synthetic Cubism*' period. Thus collage art got a new creation of cubism sect. Georges Braque became the father of this art.

Inspired by Braque, Picasso created many works of art in the collage style. Artifacts of subjects like guitar player, violin player and clarinet player can be prominently named here. He also created many still images in collage art. Although some of his works in this style look like collages, these works are

not pasted using paper or any other material, but rather created with paint. It was called '**High Cubism**' as it was the height of Cubism.

Many Western artists like Picasso, Manet, Cezanne, Henri Matisse created many works of art in this style. Also pop art appeared from 1950 onwards as a further form of collage art. Pop artists like Jares John, Robert Rosenberg, Andy Warhol, Edward Pavlozzi have created works of art that create a satirical feeling in people by using images of popular cinema heroes and heroines, pieces of news papers, printed labels, useless materials in collage technique and giving it an artistic form.

Due to the influence of Western artists many Indian artists have created many works of art with many experiments in this style. Chief among them are Satish Gujral, K.G. Subrahmanyam, V. Balu, Nikhil Chopra, Jyoti Bhatt, Aditi Singh, Rameshwar Broota, Anju Dodia, Santosh Sharma, R.M. Hadapada, Yusuf Arakkal, G.S. Shenoy, M.R. Balikai, M.B. Patil, Appasaheba Kadapoorkar, Ravikumar Kashi, M.R. Mohan, Suresh Kumar K., K.V. Raghava, Ravi Varma etc. can be named here.

Nikhil Chopra known for his performance art, Chopra incorporates collage elements into his large-scale works, blending personal and cultural narratives. Jyoti Bhatt a pioneer in Indian contemporary art, Bhatt uses collage techniques to explore themes of identity and tradition, often integrating photography with painted elements. Aditi Singh creates vibrant, layered collages that reflect urban life and social issues, often combining various materials and media. Rameshwar Broota while primarily known for his paintings. Broota has explored collage as a means to critique societal norms and express complex themes. Anju Dodiya's mixed-media works often feature collage elements, merging painting and photography to delve into themes of memory and identity.

These artists have contributed significantly to the Indian art scene, using collage to express a wide range of themes and ideas.

Currently residing in Mumbai, An officer by the profession Sahtosh Sharma creating many works of art in collage. As a invitee artist I noticed that he made a collage work in an art camp organized at Warud of Maharashtra. Especially his landscapes attract special attention.

Renowned Artist GS Shenoy created many works of art in the collage style. He created a series of paintings in an abstract style using news paper clippings and advertising letters. V. Balu has seriously engaged himself in the art of collage and has gained national and international fame. We have seen earlier that M.B. Patil created works using useless materials like colored sheets, wrappers, torn calendar etc. Mr. Appasaheba Kadapoorkar, a senior artist from Nippani in Belagavi district, has created many works of art in the medium of collage. He has created many portraits using wheat stick, tree bark, palm slivers, colored blacks, grains etc. Under his influence Dr. P.B. Gavani has also done a lot of work in this art of collage.

M. R. Mohan Known for his innovative use of mixed media, Mohan blends traditional and contemporary techniques. Suresh Kumar K. he explores socio-political themes through layered collages, often using recycled materials. K.V. Raghava combines photography and collage to create thought-provoking works that reflect urban life. Ravi Varma Known for his vibrant collage art works, Varma incorporates cultural elements and narratives from Karnataka. These artists contribute to the rich tapestry of Karnataka's art scene.

Nowadays, in the youth festival cultural competitions organized by universities, associations and institutions at Collegiate level, Zone level and National level, collage art is also included with topics like poster making, spot painting, cartooning etc. I think it will not be wrong to remember here that I have (Dr. Mallikarjun Bagodi) received more than 6 awards and prizes during the period of 1994 to 1996 in the youth festival competitions at the division, South zone and National level. Similarly, many old and young artists have engaged themselves in the creation of collage art.

LANDSCAPE IN COLLAGE ART



Collage Art by Santosh Sharma

Thus the art of collage has maintained its existence from ancient times to today's modern, contemporary context. This art, which can be created using useless materials, is gaining popularity today. Also, it can be recalled here that the principles of collage art are the reason why pop art, which includes popular subject matter, is called '**Popular Art**'.

REFERENCES

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3. For references on collage art, consider exploring "Collage: The Making of Modern Art" by Robert Rauschenberg, which examines the medium's evolution. Another great resource is "Cutting Up: Collage in Contemporary Art" by Deborah C. Pollack, detailing its impact on modern artists. Additionally, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and the Tate often feature exhibitions and online collections showcasing collage works.

DIFFERENT FACIAL EXPRESSIONS IN COLLAGE ART



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